

Pennsylvania GAZETTE.

Containing the freshest Advices Foreign and Domestick.

From Monday, November 24. to Thursday, November 27. 1729.

CONTINUATION OF THE ACCOUNT of the late Enquiry into the State of the GOALS in ENGLAND.

IT appears by the Report of the Committee appointed to Enquire into the State of the Goals, that *Huggins*, the late Warden of the *Fleet Prison* (who sold his Place to *Tho. Bambridge Esq;* in *Aug.* 1728. for 5000 *l.*) had been guilty of the highest Misdemeanors in his Office. That he had assisted in carrying on several notorious Frauds, and by unjustifiable and cruel Usage, had apparently caused the Death of several of his Prisoners. That he had suffered many to escape thro' Negligence, and several for Reward, particularly one that was charged with upwards of 40000 *l.* Debt, and another charged with 10000 *l.* That the Commitment-Books, wherein the Names, &c. of all the Prisoners ought to be regularly entered, were in the utmost Confusion. But that upon his apprehending a Parliamentary Enquiry, he caused them to be examined, and on the first, second and third of *March* (since the Committee was appointed, he exonerated out of the Books, and discharged 119 Persons, who were committed for several Sums amounting to about 17099 *l.* 6 *s.* 7 *d.* many of which ought to have been discharged in the Years 1718, 1719, 1720, and so on to this Time. That since *Bambridge* had acted as Warden, the Books had been as negligently kept, and the same or worse Frauds, &c. continued; he having caused a private Door to be made thro' the Walls of the Prison, the Key of which he kept himself, in order to let Prisoners out; and had actually let out *Boyce* the Smugler, who was charged at the Suit of the Crown with upwards of 30000 *l.* and three others charged with great Sums.

The Committee find that the said *Bambridge* hath by himself and his Agents often refused to admit Prisoners into the Prison, tho' committed by due Course of Law; and in order to extort Money from them, hath often, contrary to an Act of the Twenty-second and Twenty-third of King *Charles II.* without their free and voluntary Consent, caused them to be carried away from the Prison Gate unto a publick Viſtualling or Drinking House, commonly called a Spunging-House, belonging to him the said *Bambridge* as Warden, and rented of him by *Corbett* his Tipſtaff, and hath there kept them at exorbitant Charges, and forced them to call for more Liquor than they were inclined to, and to spend more than they were able to afford, to the defrauding of their Creditors, and the distressing of their Families, whose Substance they are compelled there to consume; and for the more effectual making them stretch their poor Remains of Credit, and to squeeze out of them the Charity of their Friends, each Prisoner is better or worse treated according to his Expences, some being allowed a handsome Room and Bed to themselves, some stowed in Garrets, three in one Bed, and some put in Irons.

That these Houses were further used by the said *Bambridge* as a Terror for extorting Money from the Prisoners, who on Security given have the Liberty of the Rules; of which *Mr. Robert Castell* was an unhappy Instance, a Man born to a competent Estate, but being unfortunately plun-

ged in Debt, was thrown into Prison; he was first sent (according to Custom) to *Corbett's*, from whence he by Presents to *Bambridge* redeemed himself, and, giving Security, obtained the Liberty of the Rules; notwithstanding which he had frequently Presents, as they are called, exacted from him by *Bambridge*, and was menaced, on Refusal, to be sent back to *Corbett's* again.

The said *Bambridge* having thus unlawfully extorted large Sums of Money from him in a very short Time, *Castell* grew weary of being made such a wretched Property, and resolving not to injure farther his Family or his Creditors for the Sake of so small a Liberty, he refused to submit to further Exactions, upon which the said *Bambridge* ordered him to be recommitted to *Corbett's*, where the Small Pox then raged, tho' *Castell* acquainted him with his not having had that Distemper, and that he dreaded it so much, That the putting him into a House where it was would occasion his Death, which, if it happened before he could settle his Affairs, would be a great Prejudice to his Creditors, and would expose his Family to Destruction; and therefore he earnestly desired that he might either be sent to another House, or even into the Goal itself, as a Favour. The melancholy Case of this poor Gentleman moved the very Agents of the said *Bambridge* to Compassion, so that they also used their utmost Endeavours to dissuade him from sending this unhappy Prisoner to that infected House: But *Bambridge* forced him thither, where he (as he feared he should) caught the Small Pox, and in a few Days died thereof, justly charging the said *Bambridge* with his Death; and unhappily leaving all his Affairs in the greatest Confusion, and a numerous Family of small Children in the utmost Distress.

It appeared to the Committee, That the Letting-out of the *Fleet* Tenements to Viſtuallers for the Reception of Prisoners hath been but of late practised, and that the first of them Let for this Purpose was to *Mary Whitwood*, who still continues Tenant of the same, and that her Rent has from 32 *l.* per Ann. been increased to 60 *l.* and a certain Number of Prisoners stipulated to be made a Prey of to enable her to pay so great a Rent; and that she, to procure the Benefit of having such a Number of Prisoners sent to her House, hath, over and above the increased Rent, been obliged to make a Present to the said *Bambridge* of forty Guineas, as also of a Toy, (as it is called) being the Model of a *Chinese* Ship made of Amber set in Silver, for which Fourſcore Broad-pieces had been offered her.

This is the first Method of extorting Money from the unhappy Prisoners; and when they can no longer bear the Misery and Expence of a Spunging-House, before they can obtain the Privilege of being admitted into the Prison, they are obliged to comply with such exorbitant Fees as the said *Bambridge* thinks fit to demand, which if they do not, they are sure, under various Pretences, of being turned down to the Common-Side, if not put in Irons and Dungeons; and this has been done to those who were willing and offered to pay the Fees established by the Regulation made by the Judges of the *Common-Pleas* in *Trinity-Term.* 1727. which ought to have been hung up in some publick Place in the Prison, to which the Prisoners might have

have free Access, but was secreted pursuant to the Orders of the said *Bambridge*; which Table of Fees seems to be unreasonable, because it obliges Men who are committed for not being able to pay their Debts, to pay such Sums of Money as their Circumstances render them altogether unable to comply with.

And this Table of Fees was fraudulently obtained by the said *Bambridge*, for it appeared to the Committee, That upon Complaint of the Prisoners of the *Fleet* to the Court of *Common-Pleas*, the Order made by Lord Chief Justice *Herbert*, establishing the Fees of the Goal, was ordered to be read, which Order was founded upon Institutions made in the Year 1651, in which was a Table of Fees, two *Items* whereof being taken away, the rest amounted to 2*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* And the said *Bambridge* read the said Order, and instead of reading the Particular *Items*, he read only the said Sum Total of 2*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* and thereby he induced the Judges to believe that the said Sum was the Fee due to the Warden, and accordingly they ordered it to be paid as due to him for a Commitment-Fee, and ordered the other Fees due to the Chamberlain, Goaler and others, to be paid, over and above the said 2*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* and the same have been ever since taken, besides the 7*s.* 4*d.* to the Warden upon the Prisoner's Discharge, notwithstanding they are all included in the 2*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*

The said Judges of the *Common-Pleas* seeming to be of Opinion that every Action to which a Prisoner was rendered in Discharge of his Bail was a separate Commitment, and that there was a separate Commitment-Fee due upon each Action; the said *Bambridge* has thereupon received six or seven Times 2*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* of a single Person, as his bare Commitment-Fees, whereby the Prisoner has paid six Times for the Liberty of the House and Irons, six Dismission Fees, for six Obligations (tho' none given) six Fees to the Chamberlain, Porter, Goaler, &c. and six Gallons of Wine; and the Prisoner pays the Chamberlain, Goaler, &c. for his Discharge besides.

The said *Bambridge* likewise takes a Fee of 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* from every Prisoner committed by the *Exchequer* or *Chancery*, whereas there is no such due, nor any Distinction in the Table of Fees between the Commitment of one Court or another. And notwithstanding the Payment of such large Fees, in order to extort further Sums from the unfortunate Prisoners, the said *Bambridge* unjustly pretends he has a Right as Warden to exercise an unlimited Power of changing Prisoners from Room to Room; of turning them into the Common Side, tho' they have paid the Master's Side Fee; and inflicting arbitrary Punishments by locking them down in unwholesome Dungeons, and loading them with torturing Irons; some Instances of which follow: *viz.*

Jacob Mendez Solas, a Portuguese, was, as far as it appeared to the Committee, one of the first Prisoners for Debt that ever was loaded with Irons in the *Fleet*; The said *Bambridge* one Day called him into the Gate-house of the Prison, called the *Lodge*, where he caused him to be seized, fettered, and carried to *Corbett's*, the Spunging-House, and there kept for upwards of a Week, and when brought into the Prison, *Bambridge* caused him to be turned into the Dungeon, called the *Strong Room* of the Master's Side. This Place is a Vault like those in which the Dead are interr'd, and wherein the Bodies of Persons dying in the said Prison are usually deposited, till the Coroner's Inquest hath passed upon them; it has no Chimney nor Fire-place, nor any Light but what comes over the Door, or thro' a Hole of about 8 Inches square. It is neither paved nor boarded; and the rough Bricks appear both on the Sides and Top, being neither Wainscotted nor Plastered: What adds to the Dampness and Stench of the Place is, its being built over the Common-Shore, and adjoining to the Sink and Dunghill, where all the Nastiness of the Prison is cast. In this miserable Place the poor Wretch was kept by the said *Bambridge*, Manacled and Shackled for near two Months. At length, on receiving five Guineas from Mr. *Kemp*, a Friend of *Solas's*, *Bambridge* released the Prisoner from his cruel Confinement. But tho' his Chains were taken off, his Terror still remained, and the unhappy Man was prevailed upon by that Terror, not only to labour gratis for the said *Bambridge*, but to swear also at random all that he hath required of him: And the Commit-

tee themselves saw an Instance of the deep Impression his Sufferings had made upon him; for on his furnishing, from something said, that *Bambridge* was to return again, as Warden of the *Fleet*, he fainted, and the Blood started out of his Mouth and Nose.

[To be continued in our next.]

New-York, Nov. 24. From Antigua we have Advice, that a Sloop belonging to Boston, one Atkins Master, trading upon the Coast of Guinea, the Men entred into a Conspiracy, seized upon the Master, and bid him prepare for Death, and in a short Time ty'd his Hands and Feet, and threw him over-board; then they shared the Gold Dust, &c. and went away for Antigua, from thence to St. Thomas's, and then back again to Antigua; where they were discover'd by some Negroes aboard, and were all apprehended, try'd and condemn'd for Piracy.

Custom-House, New-York, Inward Entries.

Hilton and Robinson from New-Castle on Delaware, Power from Rhode-Island, Rowe from Antigua, Laurence from Curacao, Tucker from Barbadoes, Ellifson from Casco-Bay. Outward Entries, Snow and Power for Rhode-Island, Fitch for Antigua, Edkin for St. Thomas, White for South Carolina, Tucker for Curacao, Hilton for Bermuda. Cleared for Departure, Mansfield to Suranam, Leacraft to Barbadoes, Varar and Phenix to Curacao, Bryant to London, Snow to Rhode-Island, J. Lawrence to St. Thomas.

Philadelphia, Nov. 27. The Watts Galley, Capt. Wallis, is arrived in the River in eight Weeks Passage from England, but not come up at the Printing of this. No News Papers are yet come on Shore, but we learn that the King is return'd from Hanover; that the English Fleet is laid up, and the Dutch Squadron gone home to Holland; so that a Truce or Peace is probably concluded with Spain. Mr. William Allen, Merchant of this City, is return'd from England in the Watts, and came to Town this Morning.

Custom-House, Philadelphia, Entred inwards.

Ship Phenix, Joseph Piper, from Dublin.
New Bristol-Hope, Tho. Chalkly, from Barbadoes.
Sloop Surlnam, Hen. Norwood, from Antigua.
Sea Horse, Nehem. Doane, from Boston.

Entred Outwards.

Sloop Sea Horse, Nehem. Doane, for Boston.
Ship New Bristol-Hope, Tho. Chalkly, for Barbadoes.
Brigt. Henrietta, Sam. Farra, for Madera.

Cleared Out.

Brigt. Dolphin, Wm. Hill, to Barbadoes.
Ship Allen, James Craigie, to Jamaica.
Mortonhouse, James Coultas, to Ditto.
Tryall, John Lucas, to Falmouth.

Prices of the following Goods. Flour 12*s.* 6*d.* per C. Midling-Bread 15*s.* Mixt ditto 13*s.* Brown ditto 12*s.* Rum 3*s.* 2*d.* per Gall. Mellasses 19*d.* Muscovado Sugar from 30 to 45*s.* per C. Wheat 3*s.* 9*d.* per Bush.

Buried in the several Burying-Grounds of this City in the Week past.

Church	4	}	Baptists	0	
Quakers	0		}	Whites	2
Presbyterians	0			Strangers,	0
				Blacks	0

In all 6. Decreased in the Burials this Week 1.

Advertisements.

Lately Published:

A Short DISCOURSE, Proving that the Jewish or Seventh-Day Sabbath is Abrogated and Repealed. By John Meredith. Printed and Sold by the Printers hereof: Price Six-Pence.

Just Published,

THE SPIRIT'S TEACHING

Man's Sure Guide: Briefly asserted, and recommended to the sober Perusal of all Christian Believers. By Charles Woolverton, Sen. THE SECONDED EDITION, corrected and amended by the Author, with large Additions. Printed for the Author, and Sold by the Printers hereof.